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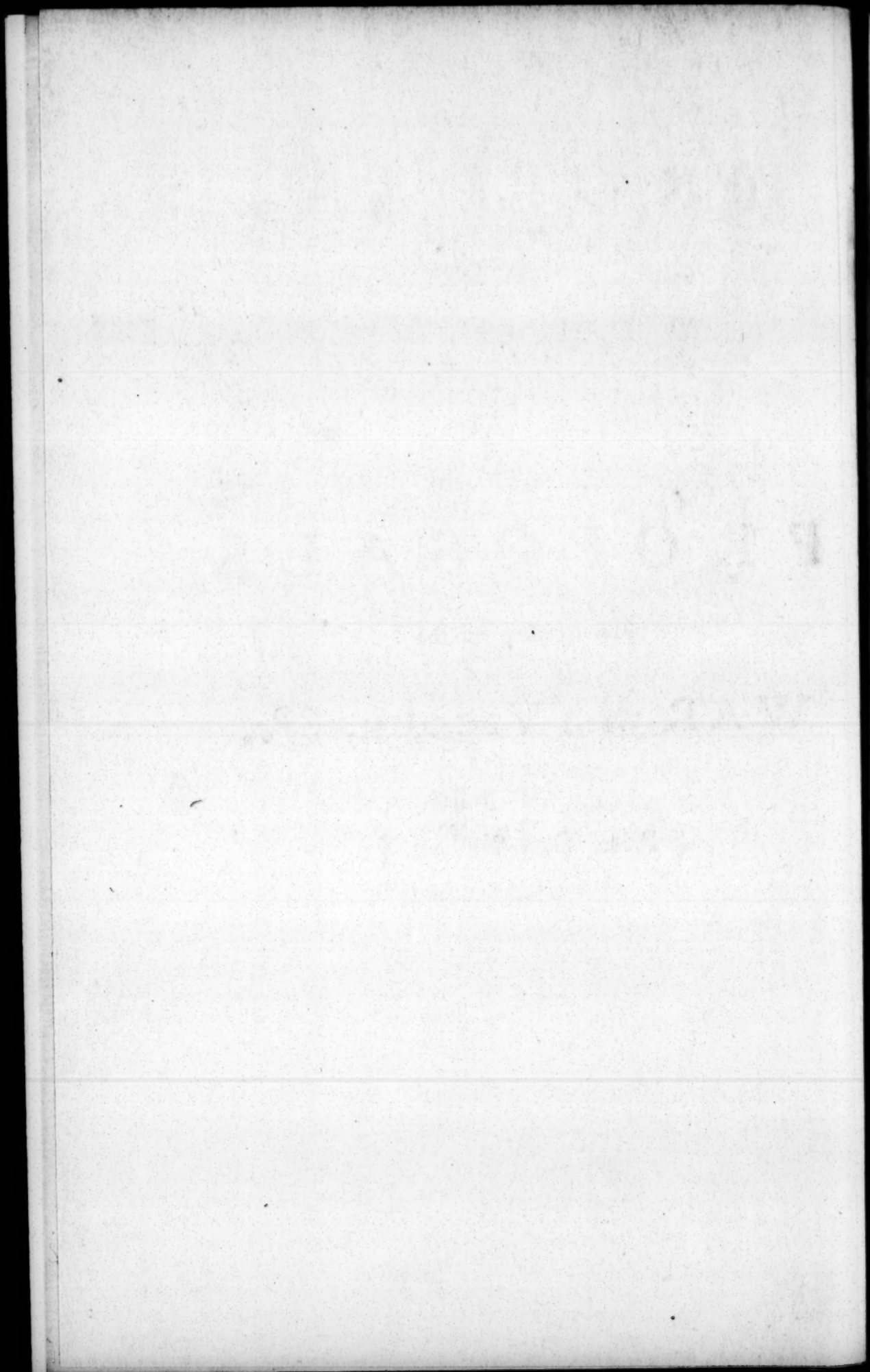
PROPOSALS

For carrying on the

WAR with VIGOUR, &c.

[Price One Shilling.]

56



PROPOSALS

For carrying on the

WAR with VIGOUR,

Raising the

Supplies within the Year,

And Forming a

NATIONAL MILITIA.

To which are added,

Considerations in Respect to Manufacturers and Labourers, and the Taxes paid by them; the Inconveniencies of Credit for small Sums, and the Courts lately erected to recover them.

Intended to demonstrate,

That it is not the Dearness of the Labour of the Poor, but the Profits and Expences of higher Classes of People, which are the real Clog on the Foreign Trade and Commerce of *ENGLAND*.

L O N D O N :

Printed for M. COOPER, at the *Globe* in *Pater-*
noster-Row, 1757.

PROPOSALS

FOR THE

REVISION OF THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

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PROPOSALS

For carrying on the WAR
with Vigour, &c.

AT a Time when this Nation is necessarily engaged in a War, for the Preservation of her Commerce and Colonies, against a dangerous and powerful Enemy; and when, of Consequence, it becomes the Duty of every *Briton*, to steel his Breast, with a steady and determined Resolution, to hazard his Person and to sacrifice his Fortune, in Defence of his Religion, Liberty, Property, Posterity, Relations, Friends, and whatever else is dear and valuable in Society: In such a State of Things, I say, when a Temper like this is absolutely requisite, for the Attainment of the first and greatest of temporal Purposes, the Preservation and Welfare of our Country, it is a most melancholy Consideration, to hear many Persons of Rank and Fortune talk of our Condition in a despairing and desponding Manner, and thereby daunt that Spirit at Home, which can alone give us Success Abroad. Instead of thus spreading Terror and Dismay, which can serve only to invite Distress, and hasten that Ruin which

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they seem so much to fear, they ought surely to shew their own Significance, by exhorting the People to exert with Courage the Strength, Riches, and Power, of these Nations, against their implacable Enemies. They ought to point out to them the Resources we have within ourselves, which are fully sufficient, if chearfully employed and wisely conducted, not only to defend *Great-Britain* and *Ireland* from all Invaders, but also to preserve our Trade and to protect our Colonies, and even to make our Enemies feel, in their foreign Possessions, how dangerous it is to injure and provoke a free People. But as this is not the Duty alone of the Rich and Great, but of every Individual also, who has the Honour to be born, and the Happiness to live, under this excellent Constitution, the following Thoughts, I hope, will not be unacceptable, as they flow solely from an impartial Intention to set these important Points in as clear and as strong a Light as it is in the Power of a private Man to place them.

As to the Measures requisite to be taken for establishing a competent Force for carrying on the War with Vigour, we have not the least Reason to doubt that they may be taken without any grievous Distress to the Nation. There are certainly, within the united Kingdoms of *Great-Britain* and Kingdom of *Ireland*, including those who are already in his Majesty's Service, a sufficient Number of Men fit to bear Arms, without taking any from necessary Labour,

bour, or from their Employment in useful Manufactures. In order to be satisfied in this, let us consider what the Numbers are that may be required for the Sea and Land Service, and it will appear to every Man, who is a competent Judge of the present State of these Nations, that, without any great Difficulty, they may be supplied and recruited from Time to Time, so long as the War shall continue, and render the Support of such Armaments necessary.

WE shall suppose, that sixty thousand Seamen are annually employed on board the Navy; that thirty thousand regular Troops be kept on Foot in *South*, ten thousand in *North Britain*; twenty thousand in *Ireland*, and that twenty thousand more are destined for the Service in *Gibraltar*, the Protection of the Colonies, and to act against the Enemy in other Places, as Occasion may require.

As ample an Establishment as this may seem, and as great as the Expence must be, with which it will naturally be attended, since, except the twenty thousand Men in *Ireland*, all these Seamen and Soldiers must be supported by *Great-Britain*; yet it may be with Truth affirmed, that this vast Expence can never impoverish us. For, as almost all the Money raised for their Subsistence will be expended here at Home, or in our Settlements and Colonies Abroad, from whence it will be quickly drawn again for the Produce of our Manufactures, it is demonstrable, that, in a *National View*, the

necessary Disbursements for this formidable Fleet and Army will not affect our Trade, or diminish our Riches, in the same Degree as the Maintenance but of ten thousand Men in Flanders, or the Payment of one hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum* in foreign Subsidies. So wide the Difference is in the Expence of a War made by our own Troops for our own Service, and the Sums that are requisite to sustain our Share in any general Confederacy upon the Continent.

THE Causes of this essential and surprizing Distinction in Expence, are not either hard to find, or difficult to be understood; for, while the Money spent in our Service, is spent among ourselves, it only creates a *Circulation* through new Channels; whereas, if we maintain either our own Troops upon the Continent, or pay those of other Princes and States for acting in our Service, whatever Sums are either remitted, or sent in Specie, becomes so much Money *lost* to the Nation; or which is the same thing, though considered in another point of Light, diminish the *Ballance* of our Trade, with those Nations by whom *we* are Gainers; or increase that *Ballance* in favour of those Countries, that from our Intercourse in Trade with them, are *Gainers* by us.

WE may also consider, that in so large, and in so complicated an Expence, there must be room for great *Savings*, by a prudent Oeconomy, without

without any Diminution, of what is really requisite for the several Services.

It is but too evident, that in the Sums expended in the building, fitting, and victualling the Navy, there is some waste; and it is well enough known, that the Wages paid to *British* Seamen, that is, the Wages which the *Publick* pays, are higher than in other Nations. In respect to the former, a late Writer has very clearly shewn, that ten *per Cent.* at least, might be saved, if all the Contracts were made for *ready Money*. I will take the Liberty of adding to this; that a farther Saving to a very considerable Amount, might be made, by suppressing Frauds, and correcting Abuses in the *Dock-Yards*, &c. which are as scandalous from their Notoriety, as detrimental in their Consequences to the *Publick*.

In respect to the latter, that is Seamen's Wages, their Tickets are at this time sold at forty *per Cent.* Discount; or in other Words the poor Men lose *eight* Shillings out of *twenty*. A cruel and oppressive Deduction! Which if not the only, is at least the principal Cause, why Seamen have so great a Dislike, and so strong an Aversion to the *Publick* Service; it is this makes the Practice of *Pressing* necessary, which at the same time that it is injurious to them, brings a heavy and unnecessary Expence upon the *Publick*. On the other hand, I am well assured, that if a *proper Fund* was established, for the regular Payment of their Wages, ascertained by Tickets, sent home to their
Wives

Wives or Relations, while abroad, or discharging them in ready Money, as soon as they returned to *Plymouth*, *Portsmouth*, or other Ports, they would now, as formerly they did, resort in Crouds to enter on board the King's Ships, and be content likewise with smaller Wages.

As the Money annually raised for the *Service* of the *Navy* is as secure a Fund, for the discharge of Seamen's Wages, as can be desired; so nothing is more easy, than to point out a plain and proper Method, for removing this Grievance, and relieving these valuable Men, who run so many and so great Risks, in the Service of their Country, from such heavy and iniquitous Extortion, and thereby dispose them, to relieve the Publick in their Turn, from the Burthen of rather too large Wages, which the Nation *pays*, though they do not *receive it*. The Method proposed is this. Let *Exchequer-Bills* be issued, with an Interest of *one Penny* a Day for every *hundred Pounds*, 'till they are discharged; which ought to be done, by setting them off for Payment, as the Money is issued from the Exchequer, in the very same manner that is now practised, in reference to the *Orders* on the *Land-Tax*. By this Scheme, the Money might be at any time raised at a very easy Expence, or the *Tickets* themselves might be converted into such *Exchequer-Bills*, and answer the same end as Money. This is a Remedy so easy, and so practicable, for a Mischief so great and of so long Continuance, that one would hope

hope, that it would scarce be sooner mentioned, than adopted ; since it would turn equally to the Account of the Seamen and the Nation, and only take an exorbitant Profit from those, who have been but too long connived at in *preying* upon both.

THE Pay allowed to the Army is much higher in *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, than in any other Part of *Europe*, yet as our way of Living is very different from, and the necessities of Life much more expensive than in other Nations, I am very far from proposing any Reduction whatever in the Pay of the Soldiers. On the contrary, I could wish their Income was increased, by employing them *four* Days in a *Week*, in mending the Publick Roads, making Rivers navigable, repairing Fortifications, or where nothing of this Kind is to be done, in mowing, reaping, threshing, or any other Labour of that Sort. This would answer so many valuable Purposes, that I perswade myself it will meet with Approbation, whenever it finds a proper degree of Attention.

FOR in the first Place, it will render these Men doubly useful to their Country, reduce the Price of Labour, where it is exorbitant, facilitate Works of publick Utility, which for want of Hands are neglected. In the next Place, it will enable those Men to get their Bread readily and honestly, whenever they are reduced or disbanded ; it will make them more familiar with, and less obnoxious to, the People, of the
several

several Counties, in which they are quartered. In their military Capacity again, it will render a Soldier's Life less irksome, and more reputable; it will keep them in better Health, and take away most of the Temptations to Desertion; at the same time that they become more active, hardy, and robust, and consequently qualify them much better for Service, than if they had no other Employment than curling and powdering their Hair, sauntering about the Streets; lounging over a Pack of Cards at an Alehouse, and spreading a Spirit of Laziness and Debauchery through the Youth of both Sexes in the Neighbourhood of those Places in which they are quartered.

As by working *four* Days, they would certainly earn from *two* to *three* Shillings a Week, and as the greatest Part of this Money, would be probably consumed in the Inns and Publick Houses where they are quartered, and where of Course they would spend their Evenings comfortably, after the Labour of the Day was over; this would render them no longer unwelcome Guests, but on the contrary would create such a Circulation of Money, that instead of dreading their Approach or soliciting their Removal, those who are now so much afraid of them, would rejoice at their coming, and be very glad of their continuing, at least there would be an end of a Grievance, that has been often and loudly represented, as destructive of the Livelihood of
those

those who in other respects contribute largely to the Publick Revenue.

By this Scheme, so simple in itself, which may be conceived as soon as read, and without any difficulty carried into Practice, the Troops of *Great-Britain* would be kept in constant Order, under exact Discipline, be less obnoxious, of much more Utility, then they are at present, and withal receive *double* Pay, without putting the *Publick* to a *Penny* more Expence.

BEFORE we proceed to the great Point of exhibiting the Means by which, in Conjunction with the present national Revenue, all the Supplies necessary for the Payment of the Forces, and for the Discharge of other extraordinary Expences, inseparable from a State of War, may be raised within the *Compass* of the *current Year*; it will be expedient to lay down a few Propositions, relative to the Method of imposing and collecting, as well the Taxes that at present subsist, as the new Ones, that are to be proposed. For this is a Point of very great Importance, since an Error committed therein, may render a Tax very light in itself highly grievous to the Subject; as, on the contrary, heavier Taxes, that is, such as bring more Money into the publick Treasury, may be levied in such a Manner, as to be less troublesome, and at the same time, less burthensome to the People.

IN the first Place then I must observe, that many of the Taxes which are now paid, are charged upon the Commodities in the Hands of

the original *Manufacturer*, or *Importer*, and consequently draw with them, through their whole Progress, a Profit upon that Tax, as well as upon their first Value, or prime Cost. For it is the Custom of Merchants, and also of Dealers of every Denomination, and in itself not unjust or unreasonable either, to expect a proportionable Profit, that is, so much in the *Pound* or *per Cent.* on all the Money employed in Trade, whether originally paid for the Goods, or advanced for Taxes, which indeed the Dealer rarely distinguishes, and if he did, he would probably expect more upon the latter than upon the former, for he frequently buys the Goods upon Credit, whereas, generally speaking, he pays the Tax in ready Money. In the very next Instance, the value of the Goods, and the Tax upon them, are so effectually blended, that they pass together under the general Name of the *Price*, upon which, a proportionable Profit is expected, by every one, of the various Dealers, through whose Hands they pass; and thus, by a repeated Accumulation of Profits, before they can be purchased by the Consumer, the Taxes gradually swell to such an Amount, that Persons eminently skilled in the Finances, and perfectly well acquainted with the home Consumption of such Commodities, as are charged with Taxes, have asserted, that Taxes and the Consequences necessarily attending Taxes, thus levied, draw out of the Pockets of the People near *sixteen Millions per Annum*, though not
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one half of that Sum is paid, as the Produce of those Taxes, into the Exchequer. Hence it comes to pass, that a Drawback of the original Tax, or Sum paid in the first Instance, for Duty, cannot in any degree answer the purpose of Exportation to a foreign Market ; since it restores to the Exporter only the bare Tax or Duty first imposed, and leaves upon him the Burthen of those repeated Profits, which is very often equal to the Drawback he receives ; and consequently those Goods go as heavily loaded abroad, as they would have done, if the Tax had been paid by him, without any allowance of a Drawback.

IT follows naturally from the former Observation, that all Taxes should be laid as near as possible in the last Instance, and upon the immediate Consumer, and in proportion only to what he consumes; which last Circumstance has hitherto been very wisely practised in this Country, there being nothing more unjust or absurd, than that a Man should pay a Tax for what he does not consume. Yet as obvious as this Absurdity seems to be, it is nevertheless practised in *France* with regard to Salt, and in *Holland* with respect to Tea, *French* Wine, and many other Articles, for the Liberty of using which, People are compelled to pay a certain Sum, whether their Consumption be little or much. The Design of this is to render the Revenue more certain, whereas it is the Duty of every Government in raising of Taxes, to levy

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them as equally, as easily, and with as little Charge to the People as it is possible.

My next Position is, that all Persons who gain their subsistence by hard Labour, and the lower Class of Manufacturers, who draw a Livelihood for themselves and their Families from their Ingenuity and Industry, ought not to feel the Weight of any of the new Taxes; first, because the Burthen they bear is great enough already; and secondly, because such People are extremely useful to the Publick, from the Manner in which they acquire their Bread, and would themselves become a Burthen to it, if, by any unnecessary Addition, the Load should be made too heavy for them to bear; for nothing can be more just, than that those, who hardly earn the Necessaries of Life, should have no farther Difficulty put upon them; and nothing is plainer, than that, if any new Taxes were injudiciously laid, these valuable People must be the very first who sink under them; a Thing altogether inconsistent with the Genius of our mild and equitable Government.

AFTER laying down these Preliminaries, I propose, that the new Taxes which are requisite to be imposed for raising the necessary Supplies within the Year, be imposed upon the Follies, Vanities, Vices, Luxuries, and extravagant Expences, of the higher Classes of People, or those who affect to be thought such. I presume further to affirm, from the Experience resulting from strict and long Observation, that the foregoing

going Articles are become so much the Taste and Fashion, and are thereby so thoroughly wrought into the Habit and Customs of the present Age, that there is no Manner of Doubt to be made of their furnishing an ample Provision for the Exigencies of the State, as necessary and as great as they are at present.

I likewise must desire Liberty to add, that in order to distinguish and encourage the small Number of Persons who live rationally and frugally, in Spite of that Torrent of Profusion and Excess which too commonly prevails, and in order to induce others to follow their Example, the new Taxes should be laid on such Articles of Expence, as that every Person may avoid paying to the sumptuary Taxes at all, and be obliged to pay no greater Proportion than he himself thinks fit of those that are necessary.

BUT, if contrary to what has been hitherto experienced from the Reduction of Interest, and from other cogent Motives to Oeconomy, People should take this Occasion to grow wiser, and to set such Bounds to their Expences, as to lessen the Produce of the present Duties, or hinder the new Taxes from bringing in what from the current Course of Things might be expected, then I take upon me to say, that a new Modification of our present Impositions may take Place, by which the sixteen Millions, which it is conceived the People at present pay, may be very much reduced, and yet the clear Revenue arising from them to the Publick be so much

much augmented, as to make good any Deficiencies occasioned by such a Spirit of Frugality, which is rather to be wished than feared, rather hoped for than expected.

IN order to this, reducing the Customs at present paid on many Species of Commodities that might be mentioned, will increase the Revenue, and make some of the Drawbacks now paid altogether unnecessary; both which are Things very much to be desired, as the former is attended with many ill Consequences, and the latter, generally speaking, are the Parents of many Frauds and Abuses, which it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to prevent, any otherwise than by removing the Cause.

AMONGST other pernicious Consequences of Drawbacks we may instance these, that many of them, in Regard to our native Commodities, enable Foreigners to export them so cheap, as to undersel us in our own Manufactures; and on the other hand it may be observed, that our endeavouring to engross Manufactures that are not natural to us, and attempting to force their Progress by prohibiting the like Manufactures from other Countries, or encouraging them by Bounties here, are grasping at Shadows and losing the Substance, have already excited Foreigners to rival, indeed undersel, us in many of our proper Manufactures and have at the same Time diverted very considerable Sums, as those Bounties are generally charged on the Customs, from falling into the Publick Revenue.

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THESE Observations premised, we will draw a little closer to the Matter of Supply, and consider, in the first Place, the different Methods that have been generally taken, in order to raise Money for the publick Service.

Two ingenious Gentlemen, Mr *Fauquier* and Mr *Postlethwayt*, but more especially the latter, have, by a Train of Arguments, some very plain and obvious, others deeper, but equally conclusive, made it exceedingly clear, that going on to raise Money by increasing the publick Debt would be dangerous to our Constitution, injurious to the domestick Trade and foreign Commerce of the Kingdom, destructive of publick Credit, depreciate the Security of the Proprietors of the present Funds, and, in the Space of a few Years, annihilate Part, if not the whole, of their Capital, or reduce the Interest so low, as to sink it's Value extremely. All these pernicious Consequences have been, I say, so fully demonstrated by these Gentlemen, to be the natural Effects of this Method of raising Money, that it would be altogether unnecessary for me to insist upon or repeat their Reasons; but, however, I esteem it necessary to take Notice of some Points, that, as far as I can recollect, have not hitherto been mentioned.

IN the first Place, then, I observe, that, as the publick Securities at three *per cent.* are now at about thirteen *per cent.* Discount, no new Loan can be expected on any new Fund, calculated only to raise the Interest at that Rate, and
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not the Principal, unless there be a *Premium*, *Bonus*, *Douceur*, *Gratuity*, or *Benefit*, of some Kind or other, exceeding in it's Value the present Discount. It follows from hence, that, in order to raise Four Millions three hundred thousand Pounds clear into the Exchequer, the Amount of the Premium given to the Lenders cannot be less than seven hundred thousand Pounds, every Shilling of which will be lost to the Publick, or become a Part of the new Debt, though it was no Part of the Supply.

It's A Y farther, that though there have been various Methods proposed for making this necessary Recompence to the Lenders; yet turn the *Modus* which way you will, the Profit resulting from it must still come up to the Sum beforementioned; and, which is yet worse, there has not been one of the Methods hitherto proposed that has not been attended with very high Inconveniencies, exclusive of that great Loss which must be inseparable from these Gratuities, in whatever Shape they can be given. As for Instance, Life-Annuities, at ten Pounds for every thousand, will augment the annual Tax one *per cent.* for many Years. A Lottery Ticket on each thousand Pounds will encourage a most pernicious Spirit of gaming, necessarily attended with Breaches of Trust, Fraud, Bankruptcies, and other, perhaps, yet unthought of Inquiries, as is but too plain from what was fatally experienced in the last Lottery; and these Circumstances, therefore, if duly considered,

ought

ought to deter us from a Practice, the Mischiefs of which are so clearly foreseen for the future, and have been so severely felt from the Use of the like Expedients in Time past.

ON the other Hand, if a greater Interest be given than 3 *per cent.* as it was actually given, upon three fourths of the last Year's Loan, the certain Effect of that will be the running down the present three *per cent.* Securities much below the large Discount they lie under *at present.* For it is a Fact which cannot be questioned, that Multitudes of People look no further than the Income, and annex in their own Idea, a Value to that, without any Respect had to the Capital, as is evident from the present Prices of Bank, *East-India*, and *South-Sea* Stock; nor are the Causes of their running away with this Notion at all difficult to discover.

My second Remark is, that the old Proprietors of the present Funds have actually lost, in the Compass of a few Years, twelve Millions; that is, the Property they now possess, and have, during that whole Period, possessed without Alteration, is gradually sunk so much in it's Value. This unavoidable Loss will be annually increasing, if the Scheme of borrowing is pursued, for every new Loan will make Money so much the more scarce; this will create a Necessity of heightening the *Douceur*, and there cannot be a more certain and incontestable, or at the same Time a more melancholy, Truth than this, that whatever is given to the

new Proprietors, diminishes in Value the Property of the old ones, and in a very short Series of Years, as this comes to be every Body's Case ; it does not require any deep Reach of Thought to discern the ultimate Consequence of these gradual Declensions.

I COME now to present the Reader with a more agreeable Prospect ; for in the third Place I am to observe, that, if any Methods can be suggested for raising the necessary Supplies within the Compass of the Year, this, in a very short Space, will raise even the very lowest of the publick Securities to Par. For, as a great Proportion of the present Funds are held in Trust for Infants, and, as the Proprietors of very large Sums are, generally speaking, Persons who live within their Income, the Surplus-Money, that is, the Difference between the Expence and the Income of such Proprietors, must necessarily come to Market ; and, if no new transferrable Funds are created, the annual or half yealy Investments in the old, will undoubtedly advance their Price, give a new Face to our Affairs in this important Point, and fix the publick Credit upon a fresh and firm Foundation. This is a Thing so desirable in itself, so apparently productive of good Consequences, would so much contribute to Publick Quiet at Home, and would give the Nation so high a Reputation Abroad, that whoever has the Honour or Interest of his Country at Heart, cannot but wish, and of Course be desirous, to contribute all in his Power

Power to see it accomplished; and it is very happy for us, that even in the present distressed and disturbed State of Affairs, there is very little more wanting than such a Disposition as this to accomplish it.

THIS leads us to contemplate some of the many Proposals made for actually raising the necessary Supplies within the Year, which I hope has been clearly shewn to be the only effectual Method of enabling us to continue this War, made in our own Defence, with the Vigour necessary to procure us an honourable, solid, and lasting Peace.

AMONGST those Proposals, that which deservedly stands in the first Place is the Tax upon Houses. But, as I am apprehensive, the Gentleman who proposed it, is not entirely right in respect to the Number of Houses, the Rents of which render their present possessors capable of contributing such large annual Sums as stand in his Calculation, I have taken the Liberty to moderate that Estimate in such a Manner, as I firmly believe will bring them very near the real Rents; and, if I am not mistaken therein, I see no reasonable Objection that can be made to the Sums charged upon each, as they are exhibited in the following Scheme, which shews what may be expected from such a Tax at one View.

The Tax upon Houses, No. I.

Number of Houses.	Annual Rent.	Ann. Tax.	Ann. Amount of the Tax.
	l.	l.	l.
250,000	From 5 to 10	1	250,000
150,000	10 to 15	2	300,000
100,000	15 to 20	3	300,000
50,000	20 to 30	4	200,000
30,000	30 to 50	6	180,000
15,000	50 to 100	10	150,000
5,000	100 and upw.	20	100,000
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600,000			

All Houses under 5 l. a Year, which now pay the two Shillings Duty, to pay three Shillings more; and suppose those to be 200,000, these, at three Shillings each, amounts to — — — — } 30,000

Total Produce of this Tax 1,510,000

THIS Tax ought to be paid half yearly by the Tenant or Occupier of the House, and not by the Landlord, who being charged already with a Tax upon Land and Houses, contributes sufficiently, that is, pays a full Proportion of his Property towards the publick Expence, without being

being subjected to any new Tax. Neither would any new Re-Assessment of the old be in any Degree equitable, since, after the present Establishment has subsisted for so many Years, it would be impracticable to alter it, so as to do Justice to those who have expended vast Sums for inclosing and improving their Estates in those Parts of the Kingdom where the Tax is at present high, or have become Purchasers of Lands at very large Prices, in those Countries where the Tax is more moderate; for, though it should be allowed that the original Assessment was very unequal, any Alteration in it now would be no less injurious, would discourage all future Improvements, and would at least for a long Time create such Incertainty in the Value of Land, as would render any such Scheme, however plausible in Appearance, exceedingly detrimental to the Publick in it's Consequence.

ANOTHER Tax, the present Urgency of Affairs requiring it, during the Continuance of the War, may be raised from the Number of Servants in every House, to be paid by those who keep them, every Master or Mistress of a Family being allowed one Maid-Servant free, and paying for the rest. All Lodgers, single Gentlemen, and Ladies who do not keep a House, to pay for every Servant they keep, as in other Respects they contribute but little to publick Expence,

The

The Tax upon Servants. No. II.

	l.	s.
Upper Men Servants out of Livery	5	—
Ditto, if Foreigners and Papists —	10	—
Men Cooks — — — —	5	—
Ditto, if Foreigners — — — —	10	—
Livery Servants — — — —	2	—
Ditto, if Foreigners and Papists —	4	—
All other male Servants above sixteen		
Years of Age — — — —	1	—
Ditto, if Papists — — — —	2	—
All Women Servants except one, or		
if kept by Lodgers — — — —	0	10

THIS may possibly lessen the Number of Livery Servants that are now kept, which are most amazingly increased since the Year 1720. If this should happen, it would be a great Advantage to the Publick; for such Persons are, in a Manner, useless Members of Society, and, when obliged to get their Bread in some other Way, would add something to the Wealth of the Nation, which it is very plain they do not at present; and if every Gentleman who now keeps three would discharge one, he would certainly be a Gainer by the Tax as well as the Publick. Neither would the Person so discharged be any way injured; for he might quickly learn to subsist himself either by Labour or Industry, or, if he made it his Choice, serve his Majesty

Majesty by Land or Sea, where he would find it no great Difficulty to recover his former Employment, and save some abler and braver Fellow from being initiated into that idle Course of Life.

THERE is a Number of Persons, who, under various Pretences of Breeding, Health, Improvement, Amusement, or Pleasure, spend a great Part of their Time, and squander very large Sums of Money in foreign Countries, to the Amount, in the whole, of a much larger Sum, than any who have not thoroughly considered this Matter, enquired carefully, or had proper Opportunities of satisfying their Enquiries, can possibly imagine; upon whom therefore there can be nothing more just or reasonable, than that a Tax should be levied by way of Compensation for the flagrant Injury done to their Country, by living out of it without any just Motive or real Necessity.

Tax upon Persons residing in foreign Countries,
No. III.

For every Person under twenty-one Years of Age, who travels Abroad, or re- sides there for Education, to be paid by the Parent or Guardian — —	}	1. 20
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For every Person upwards of twenty-one Years of Age, who resides Abroad, except in a publick Character, or as a Merchant, Clerk, or Servant — —	}	40
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THIS

THIS will prove in many Respects a very useful Regulation, as well as a very reasonable Tax, as it will in a great Measure prevent our Youth from imbibing the Errors of Popery under Colour of a polite Education, preserve our Gentry from being tainted with *French* Fopperies, or, which is yet worse, *Italian* Vices, and send our old Debauchees to do Penance in their declining Years at their own Country-Seats, instead of wearing out the last Remains of Life at *Montpellier*, *Lisbon*, or *Naples*; all of which destructive Follies may be put, very unfortunately for this poor Country, into the List of prevailing Fashions.

WHEN we consider, that, through the Infirmities which it is said the excessive Use of spirituous Liquors has spread through these Kingdoms, the Staple of human Hair is so much spoiled, that, in order to supply the present Demand for Perukes, which is exceedingly increased by expensive and ridiculous Fashions, we actually remit to *France* for this Commodity, and to *Turky* for Goats Wool, upwards of thirty thousand Pounds *per annum*, it cannot be thought amiss to set some Bounds by a Tax to this Extravagance, which otherwise never will be set by those who have an Interest in promoting it.

The

The Tax upon Perukes. No. IV.

1. s. per ann.

For the lower Class of People 5

Middle, ditto — — — 1

Upper Class — — — 2

WHEN I first heard of a Tax upon Hoop-Petticoats, I must confess I thought it a little indecent, and not a little ridiculous; but finding, upon second Consideration, that we pay to the *Dutch* for Whalebone, and for Rattans to the *Chinese*, upwards of *forty thousand Pounds per annum*, I must freely confess, that I thought a Duty, equivalent to a Fine of the like Value, was the properest Correction for such an Indiscretion; more especially when it is considered, what an unnecessary Consumption is created thereby of Linnen, Stuff, and Silks, made into Apparel for Women of all Ranks. It would be very easy to be ludicrous upon this Subject, if the Occasion of speaking of it did not compel one to be serious; the Ladies would take it ill, and not without Reason, if we should treat them as deficient in Point of Abilities, and inferior to us in Understanding; I am pretty confident they do not think themselves so, and I conceive they are in the right. Upon this Principle I expect, that, having pointed out Taxes upon the Follies of our own Sex, they will not be offended that I touch upon some very idle

E

Expences

Expences in theirs; which Remarks will not be wholly useless, if they serve only to recommend them to their Attention.

WE pay a considerable Sum yearly to Foreigners for false Stones, Paste, and other Imitations of Jewels, and a much greater for *working up* (if that Term be not misapplied); these useless and worthless Baubles, in Rings, Earrings, Necklaces, and a Multitude of other insignificant yet costly Ornaments, with which the *British* Ladies and *American* Savages are equally taken; only what we call Folly in one is stiled Taste in the other. I am afraid that the Use of Jewels, except amongst Persons of high Rank and independent Fortunes, if not liable to this, may fall under a severer Censure. We may say the same Thing with regard to foreign Laces, rich Silks, and richer Brocades; all of which are needless, expensive (doubly so when flounced), and detrimental to the Manufactures of our own Country. However, not to trespass too far upon good Breeding, or break in with barbarous Oeconomy upon Politeness, if the Ladies, as it sometimes happens, will be obstinate in their Opinions, let them enjoy them; but, as they have one only Argument to plead in Excuse, that of being *distinguished* by that Mode of Dress, these Trinkets, and this Finery, let them repair the Injury they do to the Publick, and the industrious Manufacturers of their own Country (to say nothing of their Husbands and Families, for that would be uncivil); I say let them repair this, by contributing

tributing chearfully to the present Necessities of the State.

The Tax upon Female Ornaments. No V.

	l.	s.
For the Liberty of wearing Hoop-Petticoats, Rings, except Wedding and Mourning Rings, Ear-rings, Pendants, Croffes, Bracelets, foreign Laces, Silks, &c. &c. &c.	1	1
the lowest Class — — — —		
The middle Class — — — —	2	2
The upper Class — — — —	5	5

WE have seen within these few Years a surprizing Increase of Saddle-Horses, more especially in the Neighbourhood of this Town; and and if we consider how many of these are clandestinely kept by those who cannot or ought not to afford them, the Mischiefs that follow this piece of Extravagance, which is commonly the first Sally of indiscreet Youth, and at the same Time reflect, a shameful and melancholy Reflection it is! That the keeping of each of these useless Beasts, exclusive of other Expences that attend them, cost more in the first Instance than any labouring Man, and the far greater Part of the Manufacturers in this Kingdom have for the Maintenance of themselves and their Family, there cannot surely be the Shadow of an Objection to what follows.

The Tax upon Saddle-Horses. No. VI.

For every Horse, Mare, or Gelding, ex-	1.
cept those used by Farmers, kept	} 2
within ten Miles of London — —	
For every Horse, Mare, or Gelding,	} 1
kept at a greater Distance — —	

THERE is yet another Folly, attended with as ill Consequences, and which long Experience has shewn to be as incurable as any. The Reader will certainly anticipate my Meaning, and be sure, even if I did not name it, that it is CARD-PLAYING. A Folly that pervades all Ranks, Sexes, and Ages, that creates such a Waste of Time, leads to such unthought-of, as well as unheeded Expences, occasions such violent Alterations in our Tempers, interferes so much with every Kind of Business, and brings with it such an inexpressible Train of ill Consequences, as would require a very fertile Genius, a very extensive Knowledge of the World, a great deal of Leisure, and no small Portion of Ink and Paper, to describe at large. This, however, is not at all necessary to support my Design; every Person of a sober Understanding, which implies his not being infatuated with this fashionable and yet foolish Diversion, which renders all our Women-Servants Slatterns, and is the great Cause of Dishonesty in the Men; I say, every such

such confiderate Person will heartily give his
Consent to,

The Tax upon Cards, No. VII.

	l.	s.
For the Liberty of playing at all lawful Games in any licensed Family	—	1 1
For a Licence to have a Card-Assembly one Day in a Week	—	5 5

N. B. This Tax to be doubled, trebled, and
so on up to thirty Guineas, but no Licences to
be granted for *Sundays*, which ought to be pre-
sented as a high Offence, destructive of Morals,
and a very ill Example, and as such strictly pu-
nishable by the Civil Magistrate, and these Licen-
ces restrained to lawful Games, for very small
Sums of Money, and the Rate of the Cards
fixed, so as not to exceed double the Price of a
Pack in a Night. Perhaps many when this
Folly must be avowed, would think it more
decent, and some find it necessary to lay it aside.

THE six last Taxes are of such a Nature,
that the Duty must be paid down at the time
of entry, at the Excise Offices, and with the
former annual Supplies, will be, probably, suf-
ficient to answer all Payments the Government
will have occasion to make, 'till some Months
after the first half yearly Payment of the Tax
on the Tenants or Occupiers of Houses, which
will so fix the Amount of that Income, that
Money

Money may be borrowed upon it at very low Interest, more especially, as it will be discharged in a very small Time.

As great as most of these Taxes, and as singular, and as extraordinary, as some of them may appear, there is no Person who can either with Truth or Modesty, say, that he cannot afford to pay them, for, if he does, his manner of living *reproaches* him, and the Answer is obvious. If he spends above his Income with a fraudulent Intention, he will pay the Tax to hide it, and then it is a just Fine to the Publick for his Wickedness. If his Expences are owing only to Indiscretion, the Publick has as much Right to avail itself of that, as his Tradesmen to be paid for their Goods, as long as his Fortune lasts; and he will have no Cause to complain of a Law, that by putting him in mind of his Circumstances, obliges him to think, and thereby perhaps saves him from Ruin.

THERE is not a great Family in these Kingdoms, but may part with a Groom or a Helper, without the least Prejudice to their Equipage, of which they may be convinced, if they will enquire and consider how many Horses are looked after, by such a Servant, at an Inn, or a Livery Stable. What one Man does in one Place, can never require three in another, and the Tax will be attended with a further Convenience, it will inform them of what, perhaps, they could never know any other way, *viz.* how many Servants they really feed and keep.

THE

THE number of Livery-Servants may be also reduced without any real Inconvenience, and Women-Servants, who are to the full as useful, not half so expensive, and who are much more at a Loss for a Living than the Men, may be increased.

THE very Card-Money paid by many Families, if the Masters and Mistresses would but take the Pains to consider and compute it, would be found more than sufficient to pay all the sumptuary Taxes that have been proposed; and if People are not the poorer for contributing to the publick Service, which at the bottom is their own; they cannot surely believe they have any just Reason to repine. If publick Safety is not to be preferred to private Extravagance, publick Spirit is indeed extinct, but it would be unjust, as well as uncharitable, to harbour such a Suspicion. In an Age of Pleasure, People do not leave themselves proper Intervals for Thinking; those whose Duty it is therefore, must think for them; and when they seriously consider, how justly they have thought upon these Subjects, they will be obliged rather than offended.

THERE are a vast variety of Articles that may be placed in the List of unnecessary Expences, and are only the Trappings and Gildings of modern Vanity, and fashionable Excess. These may certainly be suspended, at least for a Time, without breaking of Hearts, or even throwing People into the Vapours. We will
enumerate

enumerate only a few of them. Costly Entertainments, splendid Assemblies, constant Attendance on the Operas, Midnight Masquerades, profusion of French Claret, gilded Equipages, expensive Chimney-Pieces, fret Work Cielings, Chinese Bells, with all the train of Foliages, Birds, Anchors, and a variety of other carved Work, which serve only to harbour Dust, and may very properly be stiled dirty Ornaments; enter very fitly into this Catalogue.

CHASED Plate, the very cleaning of which in many Families, creates a very considerable Expence, besides the additional Interest on the original Cost, above that of plain neat useful Plate, which upon any Emergency will be produced for publick Service; whereas the Chased from this very difference in Price will be concealed. It would be no difficult Task to indicate a multitude of other Articles, which, without a Diminution of true Magnificence, might be dispensed with, and the saving upon each, amount to a Sum sufficient to pay all the sumptuary Taxes, regarding the several Ranks of People, by whom these Savings might be made for many Years beyond the Period, that in all Probability this War will last.

UPON the whole, the stately Cups of Luxury, Riot, and Extravagance, are full to the very Brim; and if the Owners will not spare a part of that Wealth, which is so profusely spent, for the Preservation of their Country, they will drink deep of Poverty, Necessity, and Ruin.

SEVERAL

SEVERAL Taxes, besides those already proposed, have either been offered to the Publick in Print, or started in Conversation; it may be proper to mention a few. Amongst others, a Tax on *Bachelors* and *Widowers* without Children, from twenty-five Years of Age to sixty, and on *single Women*, and *Widows* without Children, from the Age of twenty-one to forty-five, with exception to Soldiers, Seamen, and Servants of both Sexes. There is certainly something plausible in this, at least with regard to Men, for as to the Women, it may be presumed, that it is not their Fault; and if such a Tax should be laid, perhaps every *Bachelor* and *Widower* ought to pay for a *Female Friend*. But to be serious, as there may be good Reasons for Celibacy, and yet not fit to be explained; and as many of these Persons visibly tax themselves, by liberal *Contributions* to publick *Charities*, I did not think it proper to be placed among those that I recommend; believing also, that Marriages made to avoid a Tax, would not be the most happy, and the Tax, if paid, would possibly be deducted out of the *Charities* before-mentioned, and so a *little* gained by *Law*, instead of a *great deal* paid with a *good Will*.

ANOTHER Tax has been suggested to be laid on Tickets, for admission at Ranelagh, Vauxhall, Sadlers-Wells, Marybone, &c. but as the great Resort to these Places, have drawn all sorts of Tradesmen into *large* Expences, and have been one of the principal Causes of those

F Combinations

Combinations, entered into of late Years, for raising the Prices of almost every thing we use; there ought, methinks, to be no sort of doubt, that the Legislature, should rather totally suppress them, than avail itself of them, by any such Toleration.

A LARGE Tax, or rather a Prohibition of hired Chairs, Chaises, Chariots, or Coaches, passing through any *Turnpikes*, within ten Miles of *London*, on a *Sunday*, has been thought requisite to prevent those enormous Expences, in which too many Persons indulge themselves, to avoid going to Church.

SOME have thought, and indeed, there seems to be no just Objection to an annual Tax, on the Master or Mistress of every Boy, that shall be placed as an Apprentice to a Mantua-Maker, Lace - Chamber Milleners, Women-Shoemaker, Hair-Cutter, Ribbon-Weaver, or any other Trade, which can as commodiously, and with greater Decency be carried on by the Female Sex, that they may have more and better Opportunities, of getting *independent Livelihoods*, and not subsist wholly by the Generosity of the Men; besides, this would oblige great Numbers of strong, lusty, robust Fellows, to seek Employments more suitable than those that have been, and many more that might be mentioned.

If the Taxes beforementioned, should not prove altogether sufficient, or should be defective for the present, in raising the Sum that may be wanted;

wanted ; this Deficiency may be made good by granting *Annuities for Lives* ; and as these will not at all interfere with the present transferable Securities, the Surplus Money, that must from time to time come to Market, will have the desired Effect of keeping up the Price of the *Funds*, and thereby supporting *publick Credit*.

THERE can be no Proposal made of this Kind, and more especially one of so extraordinary, and as we have been long taught to believe of so impracticable a Nature, as raising the publick Supplies, *within the Year*, at a Time too when Necessities run so high, to which Objections may not be formed ; and therefore, that the Reader may perceive I deal candidly with him, and at the same time, enter the more thoroughly into the Spirit of my Propositions, I will very fairly and truly state to him, all the Objections that I can conceive this *System*, of raising the supply within the Year, will be liable to, with any Shadow or Colour of Reason ; and to these I shall subjoin such plain and perspicuous Answers, as will leave him without the least doubt, that this is, of all others, the most eligible Method of raising Money for the publick Service ; and that, though I readily allow it is not without *Difficulty*, yet it still remains both *desireable* and *practicable*.

THE *first Objection* will probably come from a certain Set of People, who have flattered themselves with the hopes of bettering their private Fortunes, by Loans upon advantageous

Terms to the Publick. These People will say, that, however plausible Schemes may appear upon Paper, and how sanguine soever their Authors, yet they will be found to raise *Hopes* rather than *Supplies*; and, that the Money this way is not to be had. That the People find it very hard to pay the Taxes already imposed; that the scarcity of *Specie* is a general Complaint, and that an attempt of this sort will only serve to make those who are possessed of Money, more tenacious of it, than they were before, and perhaps induce them when applied to, in the last resource, to insist upon *higher Terms*. In answer to this, I say, that if the Money is to be had by way of *Loan*, it may with equal Certainty and with much greater Ease, be had in the several Methods before proposed, because it will be taken in small Sums from the whole Body of the Nation, and in the most equal and equitable Proportions that can be adjusted; that notwithstanding the pretended *Scarcity* of *Specie*, and the so much magnified *Load of Taxes*, it is an undeniable Truth that Money is to be found, because it actually is found for innumerable Articles of Vanity, Luxury, and Curiosity; and to say that the very People (for upon those our Taxes are to be laid) who run into excessive and extravagant Expences, may not retrench a small part of these for a short Time, if it were with no other View than to relapse into the *same Course* of *Life* hereafter, is to controvert a self-evident Truth, and to affirm, that a fine
Lady

Lady could not relieve a *distressed Family* with the Sum that she subscribes to the *Opera*. But to come closer to the Objection. Where is the Money to be had for *Loans*? Must it not be collected and drawn together by a great Variety of Methods; Will not these become every Year more and more *difficult*? And in Proportion as the *present Funds* fall and the *publick Credit* sinks, Will not the Terms upon which these Loans are made rise in Proportion? But, by raising the Supply within the Compass of the Year, and the Publick's receiving and issuing Money gradually, a constant, uniform, and steady *Circulation*, will be kept up, and the Money come in easily and certainly at the stated Times, as it is wanted.

THE *second Objection* will come from a very different Sort of Folks, such as are unwilling, and who therefore persuade themselves that they are unable, to pay these Taxes. They will affirm, that Things are already pushed as far as they will go, that the generality of People live already at the *Height* of their *Income*, and that the Imposition of these new Taxes will answer no other End, than to expose our *national Poverty*. But a little Reflection will convince us, that, whatever there may be in Appearance, there is, in Reality, *nothing* at the *Bottom* of this Objection. If this national Poverty had been a Fact, that Profligacy and Dissipation, in which Multitudes of People have lived for near *forty Years* past, would have made it evident
long

long ago ; at least we must by this Time have been entering on a Course of *Frugality* and *retrenching* ; but as this is not the Case, it is plain the Fact is not so ; and a Thing that does not *exist* can never be *discovered*. Besides, many Incidents might be mentioned, which ought to have had, and which would have had, this Effect, if national Poverty had been our Misfortune ; but we see that, notwithstanding these, the World has gone on at the *old Rate*, People have eat and drank as *expensively*, dressed in general as *richly*, kept up the same *Splendor* in their Houses, Furniture, and Equipages, and rather increased than diminished their *Magnificence*, and therefore there is no Room to doubt that they will do so still ; or, if there should be a small Diminution, would there be any great Harm in preserving the *State*, at the Expence of grand Entertainments, Card-Tables, and publick Diversions ? Are these become the Necessaries of Life ? Or shall we presume to say, that we will continue our *Amusements* and pursue our *Pleasures* at the Hazard of our Country's *Safety* ?

THE *last Objection* that I shall state, will, I have Reason to believe, be the first that is made ; and it is this, That, though the present State of Things, and the Necessity of carrying on the present War with Vigour, may be made the Reason for imposing *these Taxes*, yet the People may have just Grounds to suspect, that *these Taxes* may continue, like *other Taxes*, when
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the Motives for laying them no longer subsists. As this is but a Supposition, I might answer it, by saying, that I suppose just the contrary. However, let me be permitted to observe further, that these Taxes may be imposed annually, as we see the *Land-Tax* is; and as we have never paid *four* Shillings in the *Pound* during the Time of Peace, there is as little Ground to imagine that we shall pay *these*. The publick Faith, that we shall pay them no longer than the Continuance of the War, makes the Payment of them absolutely requisite, must be the principal Argument with the Legislature to impose them *at all*; and if the publick Faith be pledged to us, that their *Necessity* alone shall govern their *Subsistence*, we have a moral Certainty that it will be complied with. The very *Nature* of our *Constitution* is sufficient to silence all Apprehensions of this Kind; and we have no Reason to fear, that, after a free People have given so singular an Instance of their chearful Concurrence in the *Support* of *Government*, they shall be *loaded* and *oppressed* by that *very Government* which they have thus *supported*. The Thing itself is impossible and impracticable, and therefore ought not to be feared.

It is not altogether improbable, that some *Cavils* may be thrown out by such as have been scraping and collecting Money, and have it now lying without Interest, with an Eye to the *publick Necessity*. But with respect to these People, and whatsoever *Faults* they may find, I shall

not

not give myself much Trouble; but endeavour to stand upon a *Level* with them; and as they will, no doubt, be very glad if my Plan should *not succeed*; so I will freely confess, that it would give me as much satisfaction to see them *disappointed*. The publick Interest should be every honest and wise Man's Care; for, as to the narrow and private Views of accumulating a *Fortune*, and consulting the Welfare of a *Family* rather than the *Good* of the *Publick*, it will appear in the End a short-sighted Scheme, because the Opulence or Indigence of *particular Families* will be necessarily governed by the *Condition* of the *State*; and therefore, he who is most tender of his *Country's Safety*, will, from the Event, be found to have made the *best Provision* for his *own*.

IN respect to forming a *National Militia*, so as to render it useful, and at the same Time to free it from all real Objections, as much as possible, it is proposed,

THAT the Number raised in *England* and *Wales* shall not, for the present, exceed *thirty thousand*; for as, at this Juncture, it is absolutely requisite for the Defence and Safety of the Kingdom, and at the same Time carrying on the War with Vigour, that we should have so large a Body of regular Forces as has been beforementioned, many Difficulties might occur in raising a more numerous Militia. Besides, whenever we obtain an honourable Peace, the Men who are *disbanded* out of the Troops may,
with

with great Propriety and equal Utility, be *incorporated* into this *Militia*.

IT may, perhaps, be found the most expedient Method of disciplining the *thirty thousand* Men thus raised, to form them into Companies of *one hundred* each, under no Officers of a higher Rank than that of *Captain*, to prevent any Disputes that otherwise might arise upon their Conjunction with regular Troops, with whom it is proposed they should be intermixed whenever they are ordered upon Service.

THESE *thirty thousand* Men should be all *Bachelors*, from the Age of eighteen to fifty; for in the other Method, of establishing a *Militia* by *Lot*, there will be this manifest Inconvenience, that the major part of them will be *married Men*, whose Wives and Children consequently will be thrown upon their *Parishes*, as soon as they are ordered to march; and this farther Mischief might be apprehended, that, after leading for two or three Months an *idle* Life, they would be unwilling to return to *Labour*, and, of Course, their Families would remain a *Burthen* upon the *Publick*.

ACCORDING to this Scheme, due Care might be taken, that such as enter into the *Militia* may be Persons of *sound* Principles, and known Loyalty to the *King* and the present *Royal Family*; whereas, if the Appointment of the *Militia* were by *Lot*, Numbers of a very different Disposition might come to have Arms put into
G their

their Hands, contrary to what by this *Scheme* is intended.

It is proposed, that the *Pay* of each private Man be *forty* Shillings *per Annum*, advanced to him without Deduction *half yearly*; and that, besides, every Man should be allowed a *Laced Hat* and a *Cockade*, to give him a military Air, and, by that little Distinction, excite other young Men to enter into the Service.

If this *Militia* be exercised *forty* Times in a Year with due Care and Attention, it may be found sufficient for all the *Purposes* expected from them. This may be done on *Saturdays* in the Afternoon, from *one* o'Clock to *four*, to avoid giving Offence to religious and serious People by their exercising on a *Sunday*; which would likewise be attended with many other *Inconveniencies*, from that Crowd of Spectators on that Day of Leisure, which it is *now become*, who would be drawn from all Places in the Neighbourhood, under Colour of seeing their Brothers, Cousins, and Acquaintances, exercise, and probably spend the Evening with them at the Alehouses, now licensed also to sell spirituous Liquors, in Drunkenness, Riot, and Debauchery; and thus Neglect of religious Duties and Corruption of Manners, already but too common, would be propagated with a Kind of Authority, through every *Village* and *Country Town* in the Kingdom.

It is likewise submitted to the Consideration of proper Judges, whether all Officers who now
are

are or shall hereafter be put upon *half Pay*, under the Degree of a *Major*, ought not to reside in such Counties and in such Places as his Majesty shall be pleased to appoint, and inrolled amongst the *Militia* according to their Rank, and *each* of *them* be present when his Company is exercised, under a certain Penalty in Case of voluntary Absence without Leave.

WHENEVER, upon the *Conclusion* of a *Peace*, it shall become necessary to disband a Part of the Army, it is proposed, that all the *Serjeants* shall remain in *full Pay*, and be incorporated into the *Militia*; and that every private Man shall be at full Liberty to chuse the *County* and *Place* of his Residence, be likewise entered in the *Militia*, receive the *forty Shillings per Annum*, and exercise with the rest.

WHENEVER a Man entered in the *Militia* married, he should be immediately dismissed from Service, upon his providing a proper Person to supply his Place; and it is very easy to discern, that this would be a great Advantage; for, upon any sudden Emergency, and the Country's being really in Danger, these Men would probably offer their Service, though they ought never to be compelled to it, and would not only be more capable of doing their Duty, but would be also less likely to quit the Places of their Abode and abandon their Families, as having had already a Tryal, and shewn a Dis-taste for a military Life.

THERE are many other Alterations and Amendments that might be offered upon this Subject of a *National Militia*; but I forbear going into any more Particulars, as some Persons of great Abilities and publick Spirit have been desired to take under their most serious Consideration, this great, important, and necessary Establishment, upon which the Safety and Welfare of this Country must hereafter depend, and about which, therefore, too much Care and Circumspection cannot be employed.

WE proceed in the *last* Place to examine into the Circumstances and Condition of the *Labourers* and *Manufacturers* of this Kingdom; concerning whom it has been often published in Print, maintained by many eminent Merchants and Traders, and even asserted in the most august Assemblies, that the *Price* of their *Labour* is too high, which is attributed to the *Share* they pay of the *publick Taxes*; and that this advanced *Price* of *Labour* is the Cause of the Diminution of our *Exports*, and of the Decay of our *Woollen* and other *Manufactures*.

BUT as I am, and always shall be, an Advocate for the *industrious Poor*, even in the lowest Station, I must, for the Sake of *Truth*, and in Defence of this *useful* and *valuable* Race of Men, beg Leave to differ even from these great Authorities; and that what I have to offer on their Behalf may be the better understood, and my Reasons be the more *closely connected*, I will, with the Reader's Permission, lay down some
Positions

Positions that may serve to establish and support this Assertion, and shew that it is not the Effect of Singularity, but Conviction.

IN the first Place then, I say, that a great Distinction is to be made between the Food and Raiment, which *Salomon* says is *fit and convenient for us*; and the *Bread of Idleness*, the *Nourishment of Luxury*, which tends to *impoverish, enervate, and intoxicate*. The former certainly belongs of *Right*, to every industrious Man, and if he is content with it, he ought to have it, upon that great Principle, both of Divine and Human Law, *that the Labourer is worthy of his Hire*; that is, of drawing a comfortable Subsistence, from the Sweat of his Brow, and a laudable Application to his Business. If therefore, Taxes do not fall upon necessary Food and Raiment, and the other is out of the industrious Man's reach, then all that I have advanced in his Favour, is well grounded, and the *Price of Labour*, cannot with any Propriety be suspected as the Cause of any such *bad Effects*, but they must be sought for else where, and no longer charged upon Labourers and Manufacturers.

IN Respect to Butchers Meat, all Kinds of Grain, Roots, Garden-Stuff, Fruit, and many other Articles of Subsistence, we know very well, that they do not pay *any Taxes* at all, or at least any, that if they were taken off, would reduce the *Price* of these Things, or put it in
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the Power of the industrious Poor, to come at them *any cheaper*.

THE only Taxes to which these kind of People are liable, and must of necessity pay, are those upon *Malt, Soap, Candles, Leather*, and *Salt*, the *three* first amount to a very small Sum, because they are properly laid, that is, so as to affect the *Consumer* immediately. Besides, Wood-Ashes in many Places, are used instead of *Soap*, and ordinary People, Labourers particularly, use but a very few Candles. The Taxes on *Leather* and *Salt* indeed, fall much heavier, as passing through more Hands, and especially the last, as it is necessary in making Bread, Butter, Cheese, Bacon, &c. however, even these, though they are rather too great a Load, cannot in the Subsistence of a common Family, amount to any considerable Sum.

It is also very true, that we cannot pronounce Strong-Beer, Spirituous-Liquors, Tea, Sugar, Tobacco, and some other Things of foreign Growth, that might be named, altogether unnecessary or unused by the common Sort of People. But this may be very truly said, that no *Price* of *Labour*, which such Families can receive, will permit them, to run into much Excess in this Way.

THE true and reasonable *Price* of *Labour*, ought to correspond with the *Price* of necessary *Provisions*, including the *Taxes* that may lie upon them, neither is there any great Difficulty, in discovering, whether Labourers and Manufacturers

facturers have, or have not, such a reasonable Price. If they have not, they will grow languid, sickly, and infirm, their Spirits will droop, and their Strength fail them; on the other Hand, if they have *more* than a *reasonable* Price, they will grow *idle*, and *indolent*; make *Holidays* and *Saint Mondays*, and become in general a drunken and debauched Set of Fellows. But then in making this Judgment, we must distinguish, between such as are employed in the Arts subservient to Luxury, and the Labourers and Manufacturers, employed in useful and necessary Trades. The former, for a Time, have *high Wages*, which generally speaking, corrupts their *Manners*. The latter have a *fixed* and *settled* Rate, and it is by these only, that we can frame a right notion of the *Price*.

THE most desirable State for the labouring and manufacturing Part of the Nation, is, that they should be industrious, have full Employment, and from the Result of their Labour, have wholesome Food and Raiment, the Produce of their own Country. This, I say, is what is to be wished for, and studied for their Sakes, and that of the Publick.

I PRESUME to say farther, that if all the *Taxes* upon *Necessaries* were taken away, the *Price* of Labour would not be *lessened*, but *Labour* itself would be *diminished*, and thereby the *Price* of *Labour* would be rather increased. Indeed the Reduction of Wages, is a thing Visionary and Chimerical, and I desire, that those
Persons

Persons who think otherwise, will reduce the *Prices* if they can, of the Workmen in and about this *Metropolis*, where they work only *five*, and some but *three* or *four* Days in a Week. If this cannot be done, with Respect to them, why should we think of doing it, with Respect to others, who are better and more usefully employed?

UPON this Subject, I will venture to state a few Matters of Fact.

IT has been calculated by an Author, who perfectly understood the Subject on which he wrote, That a *Pack* of *Wool* made into Broad Cloth will give full Employment to *fifty-eight* Persons for *one* Week, and that their Labour will amount to *seventeen Pounds eighteen Shillings*, which upon an Average is about *six Shillings* and *two Pence*.

THAT a *Pack* of *Wool*, made into fine Stuffs, Serges, &c. will employ *one hundred fifty-eight* Persons for a *Week*, and their Labour amount to *thirty-one Pounds twelve Shillings*, which is about *four Shillings* and *one Penny* upon an Average.

THAT a *Pack* of *Wool*, made into Stockings, will employ *one hundred and fifty* Persons for a *Week*, and their Labour, amount to *fifty-three Pounds ten Shillings*, which is about *seven Shillings* and *two Pence* a *Week*, and the Labour of the whole, *three hundred sixty-six* Persons, is upon an Average, no more than *five Shillings* and *eight Pence* per *Week*.

I THOUGHT

I THOUGHT it best to mention these Calculations, in respect to the *Woollen* Manufacture, as being the most Important and Extensive that we have, and therefore, without entering into the Particulars of other Manufactures, I shall content myself with this general Observation; that the Manufacturers in any of our *Staple* Articles, do not upon an *Average* earn themselves, their Wives, and Children, above *ten* Shillings a *Week*, and the mere *Labourer* not above *seven* Shillings.

IF we consider, that the *Air* and *Situation* of this Country as an *Island*, requires more *substantial* Food and *warmer* Cloathing, for the common Sort of People, than *France* and some other Countries, that might be named, I cannot conceive, that any Person of a humane Disposition, and who has a sincere Love for his Country and Countrymen, can desire to see the industrious Poor, earn less, than the Sums that have been before mentioned.

TAKING then, this to be the Case, the *Manufacturer*, who spends *ten* Shillings a *Week*, pays in his Taxes upon Malt, Soap, Candles, Leather, and Salt, according to the strictest Calculation that can be made, about *eighteen* Shillings *per Annum*; and as every Person ought to contribute somewhat, towards the support of the Government, by which he is protected, the Proportion of such a Manufacturer is very *small*, and of Consequence the *Clog*, that this brings upon *Trade*, cannot be very great.

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THERE are indeed Things which press *harder* upon our *Manufacturers*, and therefore it is to be wished, they were removed. For Example, the *Credit* they take for *small Sums*, and the Inconveniencies that have arisen from *Courts* lately erected in many Places, for the Recovery of such small Debts.

A MOST injurious Practice has prevailed, in many of the manufacturing Towns, to force the poor Workman to buy all his *Provisions*, &c. of his Employer, from *Monday Morning*, to *Saturday Evening*, and this too, at a very advanced Price. I will suppose it to be only *five per Cent.* which, I am afraid, is much *less* than is commonly *charged*. But admitting it to be no more, then the poor working Man, for this Loan of *ten Shillings*, in the Course of the Week, pays an Interest of *two hundred and sixty per Cent.* or *one Pound six Shillings per Annum*, which is considerably more, than the *Amount* of all his *Taxes*. At the same time that we suppose this, we must also suppose, that he is strictly *punctual* in discharging his *Debt*, every *Saturday Evening*; for, if he once falls under the Denomination of a *bad Paymaster*, he is from that Moment charged *dearer* for every thing. At length perhaps he has the trouble of a *Law-Suit* in one of the new erected *Courts*, where the Value of his *Time* (which is every poor Man's *Money*) at least the *Time* of both *Parties* and their *Witnesses*, in attending upon several *Summons's*, hearing, paying, and receiving the

the Money at the Times settled by the Court, amounts, in many Instances, to more than the Sums recovered, and all this, is an irretrievable *Loss*, not to the *Parties* only, but to the *Publick*.

It must indeed be acknowledged, that *Suits* in the *Courts* of *Westminster-Hall* are attended with a very great Expence, on *small Sums*. But though this may seem a Hardship, at *first* Sight, yet, perhaps the *Inconvenience* it prevents, may be greater than any that it may occasion. For this is found to bridle and restrain, in a great Measure, that litigious Spirit of Resentment and Revenge, which seems to be too much *implanted*, or rather is too often *infused* into the Minds of the *common People*.

THE most effectual Remedy for this Evil, the only Way to avoid the Expence, and to quench this contentious Spirit, is to take away all *Credit* for Sums under *five* Pounds; which will be an annual saving of an immense Sum to the lower *Class* of *People*. From hence, too, their *Betters* may, if they please, learn this useful Lesson, to buy every Thing with *ready Money*, and have no *Tradesmens Bills*. In both Cases, I mean with the *greatest* and with the *lowest* of the *People*, a single Alteration in *Management* will fix the desired Regulation for their Lives. Let them but raise Money by any lawful Method, to answer the Amount of their Expences, for a *Week*, a *Month*, or any other

given *Portion* of *Time*, and the subsequent Wages, Income, or Revenue, will supply *ready Money* in Succession, to answer all subsequent Demands.

FROM what has been advanced, I must confess it appears clearly to me, that the Price of the Labour of the Sorter, Dryer, Scribler, Carder, Spinner, Spooler, Winder, Quiller, Burler, Scowerer, Fuller, Rower, Shearer, Racker, Presser, Thrower, Doubler, Comber, Sizer, Seamer, Trimmer, Knitter, or Weaver, is not too high, neither can the Taxes paid by them be the real Cause of any *Decay* in our *Exports*; on the contrary, I think they deserve very well all that they get, and ought to be relieved from the Oppression of their Masters, in paying them their Wages in *Provisions* and *other* Things, and some of them too *Exotics*. It was the memorable Saying of the *French King*, Henry the *Fourth*, that he hoped to see the Time, when a *Peasant* should have a *Capon* for his Supper. For my own Part, I am so much of his Mind, that I cannot help wishing from my Heart, that every honest industrious working Family, for it is the Labour of such that constitutes the Strength and produces the Riches of this Nation, might dine once a Week upon the *Roast Beef* and *Pudding* of Old England.

BUT if it should be demanded, what then are the real Causes that our Manufactures come so dear to foreign Markets; the Answer is, not the high Price paid for the Labour of the Poor,
but

but the *Profits*, which may best be calculated from the *Expences* of other Classes of People; such as the Wool-Stapler, Clothier, Factor, Warehouse-Man, Cloth-Worker, Dyer, Setter, Cloth-Drawer, Calender, Hot-Presser, Tillet-Painter, Packer, Hosier, Merchant, Ship-BUILDER, Rope-Maker, Sail-Maker, Ship-Chandler, Anchor-Smith, and many other Tradesmen, concerned in fitting out Ships, most of which live in this or some other great Town at a high Expence, many keeping County-Houses, and who, notwithstanding all this, expect to leave large Estates to their Families.

I WOULD by no means be understood, to cast by this any the least Reflection on these useful and valuable Members of Society, for whom I have the greatest Honour, Esteem, and Respect; what I have said, I have said from a strict Regard to *Truth*, and mean by it no more than an *Admonition* to those who live by *Commerce*, to consider how that *Commerce*, and of Consequence their *Livelihood* by it, and that of their *Posterity*, brought up to some or other of these *Trades*, may be most effectually maintained and preserved.

WHEN the TRADE of this Nation was in it's Infancy, our Ancestors nursed it with the utmost Care, the most indefatigable Industry, and by a frugal, or rather parsimonious, Manner of Living. As we had then few or no Competitors, it grew surprizingly fast, and brought immense Treasures into the Kingdom. As our Merchants

chants and eminent Tradesmen became opulent, they, from that Spirit of *Liberality* and *Generosity*, which is natural to our Nation, increased their Expences as they extended their Commerce; which was laudable in them; for it is right for every Man to live suitably to his Income, as it is dishonest for any Person to exceed it.

I SINCERELY wish, that our *Merchants* might live like *Princes*, and our *Traders* as if they were the *Rulers* of the *Earth*; but at this Time, when every Nation in *Europe* is setting up, or endeavouring to set up, Manufactures in Opposition to ours, are inclined to rival us in our foreign Trade, and, in order to this, practise the same Methods that our Ancestors did, there seems to be an absolute Necessity, if we really mean to preserve it, to lay aside the *Articles* of *foreign Luxury*, and return to the old plain *English* Way of living, which will bring with it *Peace of Mind*, *Health of Body*, an *Augmentation* of *People*, an Increase of *Shipping* and *Navigation*, and a Revival of our *Manufactures* and *Commerce*, in Spite of all the *Arts* that can be used to depress the one, or to curtail the other,



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